

Learning English with CBC Edmonton

Weekly newscast

May 9th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Animal Abuse

What should happen to people who beat, starve and kill their pets? This first story is about a young man who killed 2 of his animals.

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	Facing	a) to pay the price, legally official police statement for the guilty
	Cruelty	b) doctor mental health expert
	Charges	c) to deal with to confront
	Psychiatrist	d) to have no food or drink famine
	Assess	e) results of being hurt bruises, cuts, damage
	Injuries	f) very mean torture
	Starvation	g) to measure to see if someone is mentally okay

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

animal rights groups - a group of people who fight for and speak up for the rights of animals

mental health – the health of a person's mind

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Order of events

Number the sentences according to what would have happened first (1), second (2), third (3), ... last (6), etc. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Man is facing charges.
2. _____ Cat and dog die in January.
3. _____ Camardi meets with a psychiatrist.
4. _____ Doctor reports to judge about Camardi's health.
5. _____ The DAISY foundation goes to Camardi's court hearing.
6. _____ Cat and dog are being abused.

Discussion: What are animals' rights? What kinds of things should pet owners to do in order to give their animals the best life?

News story #2 Beat the Rush

How long do you spend getting to and from work or school every day? This second story is about a proposal for an express toll road, so people don't have to wait in traffic and can get home faster.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary: Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
Local (adjective)	From nearby; relating to the area you live in
Toll (noun)	Money paid to pass through or over something
Gridlock (noun)	Solid traffic; so many cars that you cannot drive fast or even move
Propose (verb)	To suggest or try to make happen
Earn (verb)	To make money
Income (noun)	The money that you make
Contribute (verb)	To give towards

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

think tank – a group of people who discuss problems and research solutions

express lane – the fast lane to drive in, so you don't have to wait in traffic

folks – people

bucks - dollars

1. She forgot to pay the _____ when she crossed the bridge.
2. I think it's a good idea, so I will _____ it to the others and see if they like it.
3. The _____ people of Calgary might really like the idea of having a toll road.
4. If people pay to travel in the express lane, they will _____ to Calgary's economy.
5. I am going to be late because traffic is so bad; it's a _____.
6. I make a lot of money. I'd say I _____ about 30 dollars an hour.
7. The total amount I make in a month is called my monthly _____.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ The local think tank is proposing that all major roadways charge tolls.
2. _____ The Manning Foundation is proposing tolls because rush hour can become gridlocked.
3. _____ Ben Brunnen reported that people spend more time in traffic than they do earning money.
4. _____ If drivers just pay nine dollar a day, they will be able to use the express lane.
5. _____ The city will make the express lane out of an existing lane, not a new one.
6. _____ The profit that can be earned for the city from the toll roads could be 17.6 million dollars.

Discussion Question: Would you pay five dollars a day so you could get home from work faster? What is your time worth? Why would people think the express lane toll road could be a bad idea?

News story #3 Homemade ID and Credit Cards

Why do people make fake identification (ID) cards? This next story is about two men who made both fake ID and credit cards and got caught.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	1. investigation	a) the crime of tricking people into thinking something is real that isn't real
	2. financial institute	b) to take a little bit at a time
	3. fraud	c) fake; not real
	4. manufacture	d) a bank
	5. counterfeit	e) make
	6. skimming	f) to look into something

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

hidden room – a secret room in a place that other people do not know about

identity cards – cards that say who you are; e.g. A driver's license

lab - short for laboratory; a place where things are created

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Matching

Match the columns according to how the subject affects the object. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Subject of statement	Matching letter (a,b,c,d,e)	Object of statement
1. Two Calgary men		a) noticed and reported higher than normal fraud activity to the police
2. A financial institution		b) a hidden room, many counterfeit cards, drugs, cash, and stolen property
3. Police searched		c) were charged with making counterfeit credit cards and identification
4. Police found		d) they will continue to investigate and will likely charge the men with something else too
5. Police say		e) a home in the community of Mahogany

Activity

In pairs, play the roles of a reporter and a police officer that searched the home of the two men. The reporter should think of good questions to ask the police officer and the police officer should think of correct answers based on what was found in the hidden room in the basement.

Language Focus: Collocations

Collocations are two or more words that often go together. These words just sound right when they are used together. If you want to speak more naturally and learn English on a deeper level, learning about collocations will help. Learning collocations allows us to chunk information, so it is easier to remember. Here's an example: **Quick look** - I will take a **quick look**.

If we changed the words **quick look** to fast look it means the same thing, but we would never say "I'll take a fast look". This is because **quick look** occurs so often together that it sounds unnatural to say it any other way.

Which one is the collocation? Try to pick the correct collocation out of column 1 or 2 and write the correct number in column 3. You may recognize these from the stories you just heard.

1	2	3 – correct collocation
Animal cruelty	Animal meanness	
Court judging	Court hearing	
Large roads	Major roads	
Spending time	Buying minutes	
Rush hour	Quick hour	
Quick lane	Express lane	
Financial institutions	Money institution	
Stolen property	Taken property	

Next, let's look at some common words and see if you can come up with collocations for them. For example, think about the word **"time"**:

Time – e.g. pass time, buy time, lose time, time flies, time is up, time out, free time, it's about time, spend time, waste time, save time, have time, on time, just in time ...

Now, try to think of collocations for the following words. *Possible answers can be found in the appendix.* Also, there are collocation dictionaries online to check answers.

	Possible collocations
Come	
Get	
Take	
Keep	

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY 9 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 9 th .	0:00
Story 1	A Calgary man is facing animal cruelty charges in connection with the death of a cat and dog in January. 19-year-old Nicolino Camardi will meet with a psychiatrist to have his mental health assessed this week. The doctor will report back to the judge about Camardi's health. Back in January, a Siberian husky was found to have died of starvation, while the cat was strangled, among other injuries. Animal rights group The DAISY Foundation was at Camardi's court hearing. Heather Anderson says the group is hearing from many members and supporters, upset about what happened.	0:09
Story 2	A local think tank is suggesting charging tolls on some major roadways in Calgary. Rush hour traffic in Calgary can become gridlocked. That's one reason the Manning Foundation is proposing tolls on some Calgary roads... such as Glenmore, Crowchild, and Deerfoot trail. Ben Brunnen, who wrote the report, said "Folks are spending more time in traffic than being in the office, earning their incomes and contributing to the economy." He suggests one lane of existing traffic on those major roads could become a toll express lane. Drivers would pay 5 bucks a day... and then could use the faster lane. The group says tolls could raise 76 million dollars in profit for the city every year.	0:59
Story 3	After a four-month investigation two Calgary men have been charged with making credit cards and identity cards. A financial institution reported a higher than normal amount of fraud activity in January. Police say a search of a home in the southeast community of Mahogany found a credit card manufacturing lab with hundreds of counterfeit cards in a hidden room in the basement. They also found credit card skimming machines, drugs, cash and stolen property. Police say the investigation continues and more charges are likely.	1:58

Answer keys

News story 1: Vocabulary

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
c	Facing	a) to pay the price cover the amount, legally
f	Cruelty	b) doctor mental health expert
a	Charges	c) to deal with to confront
b	Psychiatrist	d) to have no food or drink famine
g	Assessed	e) results of being hurt bruises, cuts, damage
e	Injuries	f) very mean torture
d	Starvation	g) to measure to see if someone is mentally okay

Listening: Put events in correct order

1. ___**3**___ Man is facing charges.
2. ___**2**___ Cat and dog die in January.
3. ___**4**___ Camardi meets with psychiatrist.
4. ___**5**___ Doctor reports to judge about Cardi's health.
5. ___**6**___ The DAISY foundation goes to Camardi's court hearing.
6. ___**1**___ Cat and dog are being abused.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. She forgot to pay the _____**toll**_____ when she crossed the bridge.
2. I think it's a good idea, so I will _____**propose**_____ it to the others and see if they like it.
3. The _____**local**_____ people of Calgary might really like the idea of having a toll road.
4. If people pay to travel in the express lane, they will _____**contribute**_____ to Calgary's economy.
5. I am going to be late because traffic is so bad; it's a _____**gridlock**_____.
6. I make a lot of money. I'd say I _____**earn**_____ about 30 dollars an hour.
7. The total amount I make in a month would be my monthly _____**income**_____.

Listening

1. F The local think tank is proposing that all major roadways charge tolls.
2. T The Manning Foundation is proposing tolls because rush hour can become gridlocked.
3. T Ben Brunnen reported that people spend more time in traffic than they do earning money.
4. F If drivers just pay nine dollar a day, they will be able to use the express lane.
5. T The city will make the express lane out of an existing lane, not a new one.
6. F The profit that can be earned for the city from the toll roads could be 17.6 million dollars.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
f	1. investigation	a) the crime of tricking people into thinking something is real that isn't real
d	2. financial institute	b) to take a little bit at a time
a	3. fraud	c) fake; not real
e	4. manufacture	d) a bank
c	5. counterfeit	e) make
b	6. skimming	f) to look into something

Listening: Matching subject and object

Subject of statement	Matching letter	Object of statement
1. Two Calgary men	c	a) noticed and reported higher than normal fraud activity to the police
2. A financial institution	a	b) a hidden room, many counterfeit cards, drugs, cash, and stolen property
3. Police searched	e	c) got charged with making counterfeit credit cards and identification
4. Police found	b	d) they will continue to investigate and will likely charge the men with something else
5. Police say	d	e) a home in the community of Mahogany

Language focus: Collocations

1	2	3 – correct collocation
Animal cruelty	Animal meanness	1
Court judging	Court hearing	2
Large roads	Major roads	2
Spending time	Buying minutes	1
Rush hour	Quick hour	1
Quick lane	Express lane	2
Financial institutions	Money institution	1
Stolen property	Taken property	1

	Possible collocations
Come	come here, come close, come back, come early, come late, come on time, come first, come last, come ready, come along,...
Get	get lost, get a life, get home, get married, get a job, get ready, get out of here, get to school, get along with,...
Take	take a break, take care, take five, take the bus, take a taxi, take notes, take a seat, take a look, take away, ...
Keep	keep the change, keep away, keep in touch, keep calm, keep quiet, house-keeping, keep trying, keep it down, ...